

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 98-3-16**

Date Prepared: March 12, 1998

For Work Week Commencing: March 16, 1998

Business Meeting Date & Time: March 16, 1998, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, placed on the state electronic bulletin board, and posted to the PSC's world wide web site at <http://www.psc.mt.gov>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission Secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. PP&L Docket D97.7.91 - Discuss/act on PP&L's Motion to grant staff permission to review customer education material (3/18/98)
2. Proxy Cost Model Docket D97.9.167- Discuss procedure and get Commission direction on how to proceed (3/18/98)
3. Electric Supplier Licensing/Electric and Natural Gas Consumer Protection Rules Docket L-97.8.6-RUL - Discuss comments on first draft, direction on issuing second draft for informal comments (3/18/98)
4. USWC Service Quality Penalty Fund - Brainstorming possible uses for the \$140,000 in the fund (3/18/98)
5. Weekly Scheduling Meeting - Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N98.3.47 (Nina)

On March 2, 1998, U S West Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 98-07, "Introduction of Long Distance Alert." This filing introduces a new optional feature to Call Waiting called Long Distance Alert, which provides a distinctive ring and /or a distinctive call waiting tone on a line for in-coming long distance calls. The feature will be deployed as a no charge option to both business and residential customers who subscribe to Call Waiting. Proprietary justification has been filed. Staff recommends approval.

2. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N98.3.49 (Nina)

On March 2, 1998, U S West Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 98-09, "Accessibility / Mobility Promotion," introducing a Promotion For Residential Additional Line and Voice Messaging. During the promotional period from April 6, 1998 through May 15, 1998, a \$15.00 credit will be offered to residence customers who order additional exchange access lines, up to 2 additional lines per customer. During the promotional period, residential customers will also be able to order Voice Messaging Mailbox, Message Notification, and Extension Mailbox with 30 days of free service. Any applicable nonrecurring charges will be waived. This promotion is available on orders placed and /or completed during the promotional period or at the next available offered due date, and where facilities exist and are available. Proprietary justification has been filed. Staff recommends approval.

3. USWC/CRJ COMMUNICATIONS, INC. - Docket D98.1.7 (Robin M.)

On January 27, 1998, a Notice of Application for Approval of Interconnection Agreement and Opportunity to Intervene and Comment was issued, notifying interested persons of the negotiated Interconnection Agreement between US WEST Communications, Inc. and CRJ Communications, Inc. which was filed on January 22, 1998 for approval with the Commission. No requests for intervention or comments were received. The Agreement must be approved within 90 days (by April 12, 1998) or it will be deemed approved. A draft order approving the Agreement has been distributed. Staff recommends approval.

4. FIRSTEL, INC./USWC - Docket D98.1.15 (Robin M.)

On February 6, 1998, a Notice of Application for Approval of Resale Agreement and Opportunity to Intervene and Comment was issued, notifying interested persons of the negotiated Interconnection Agreement between Firstel, Inc. And US WEST Communications, Inc. which was filed on January 28, 1998 for approval with the Commission. No requests for intervention or comments were received. The Agreement must be approved within 90 days (by April 29, 1998) or it will be deemed approved. A draft order approving the Agreement has been distributed. Staff recommends approval.

5. RONAN TELEPHONE COMPANY - Docket N98.2.36 (Kate)

On February 23, 1998, Ronan Telephone Co. filed for approval of DS1 digital switched service as a detariffed new service.

6. PROJECT TELEPHONE COMPANY - Docket N98.2.44 (Kate)

On February 26, 1998, Project Telephone filed to introduce five new custom local area signaling services (CLASS) on a detariffed basis. The proposed new services are: caller ID name, call forward busy, call forward no answer, call rejection anonymous and last call return block to private.

7. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N98.2.42 (Kate)

On February 26, 1998, US West Communications filed revisions to its access tariff to reflect the deregulation of US West payphone services and to ensure that payphone services are offered to all payphone providers under equal terms and conditions.

8. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N98.2.43 (Kate)

On February 26, 1998, US West Communications filed revisions to its private line transport tariff to reflect the deregulation of US West payphone services and to ensure that payphone services are offered to all payphone providers under equal terms and conditions.

9. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N98.2.33 (Vicki)

On February 23, 1998, US West filed tariff pages making minor text changes in the Montana Access Services Tariff.

10. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N98.2.34 (Vicki)

On February 23, 1998, US West filed tariff pages making minor text changes in the Private Line Transport Tariff.

11. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N98.2.35 (Vicki)

On February 23, 1998, US West filed tariff pages making minor text changes in the Exchange and Network Services Tariff.

12. MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS - Docket N98.3.45 (Vicki)

On March 2, 1998, MCI filed tariff pages to remove FCC verbiage and add state specific rates for the Basic Calling Plan Option; and to grandfather Option Y (homeMCI One).

13. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N98.3.48 (Vicki)

On March 2, 1998, US West filed tariff pages to introduce a residential and a business flat rate option to the existing 1-800 US WEST Calling Service.

14. PACIFIC TELECOM, INC. (PTI) - Docket N98.2.38 (Bonnie)

On February 25, 1998, Pacific Telecom, Inc. (PTI) filed Tariff Advice 98-1 with revisions to PSC Mont. No. 11 tariff and to the Exchange Services Price List. The filing changes the rates for Custom Calling II services, eliminating the differential for business and residential services and revising rates. The minimum rate is being lowered for some services.

15. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N98.3.46 (Bonnie)

On March 2, 1998, US WEST filed a request to extend until December 31, 1998, the Market Trial of the optional flat rated intraLATA calling plan called "The Better Deal". The initial period of the trial was for a period of six months starting 9/15/97. USWC seeks an extension of the period to 12/31/98.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N98.3.53 (Nina)

On March 9, 1998, U S West Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 98-10, "800 ServiceLine-Price Changes". This filing reflects price changes by eliminating the non-recurring charge for customers ordering 800 ServiceLine as a new service. The monthly rate for 800 ServiceLine will be reduced from \$5.00 to \$3.00, and the hourly rate will be reduced from \$12.00 to \$9.00. This 800 ServiceLine option

provides a customer an 800 number to be associated with the local access line for incoming intraLATA calls. The rates for 800 ServiceLine include a monthly rate and an hourly rate for interrelate usage.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

WorldCom/MCI Docket D97.10.191 - NSA granting intervention to requesting parties was served March 9, 1998

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 98-3-23

Docket N98.3.53 US WEST COMMUNICATIONS (Nina)

New Filings Received in Past Week

N98.3.51	Powder River Energy Corp. - Notice of Exemption
N98.3.52	Fall River Rural Coop - Notice of Exemption
N98.3.53	USWC - 800 ServiceLine/Price Changes
D98.3.54	MDU - Security Issue
D98.3.55	Citizens/CommNet Cellular - Interconnection Agreement
D98.3.56	PP&L - Security Issue
N98.3.57	Hot Spring Telephone - InterLata Equal Access Plan
N98.3.58	Ronan Telephone - InterLata Equal Access Plan
D98.3.59	Citizens/Western Wireless - Interconnection Agreement